

November 2, 2017
www.mbc.org

THE Baptist Record

Vol. 141
No. 43

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

BRIEFS

GUIDESTONE OFFERING COVERAGE SOLUTIONS

DALLAS (BP) — Because of the uncertainty created by congressional inaction on the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), GuideStone Financial Resources has prepared options for churches looking to help their pastors and staff members obtain health care coverage for themselves and their families. GuideStone is increasing access to individual plans and group products including GuideStone's personal plans, microgroups for churches with as few as two employees, and group plans for larger and medium-sized churches and ministries. For more information, call (844) 467-4843 or visit GuideStone.org.

ACLU CELEBRATES ABORTION RULING

WASHINGTON (BP) — The legal battle over whether a 17-year-old illegal immigrant can abort her child ended Oct. 25 when the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which represented her in court, announced she had terminated the pregnancy less than 24 hours after the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled 6-3 that the teen had to be released to an adult who would help her obtain the abortion. "Justice was served," said ACLU senior staff attorney Brigitte Amini.

THIRD GENDER O.K. FOR CALIFORNIA IDs

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP) — California Gov. Jerry Brown approved a bill Oct. 15 that adds a third gender to official state identification documents for those who reject the designation of male or female. California citizens now have the right to designate themselves as "non-binary" on such documents as driver licenses and birth certificates. "This will not be the end of our journey into irrationality. It is just the beginning," said the California Family Council. In July, Oregon became the first state to allow residents to mark their gender as "not specified" on state identification documents.

Landmark LifeWay towers to come down Draper and Sullivan buildings slated for upcoming demolition

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — Southwest Value Partners, new owner of LifeWay Christian Resources' corporate headquarters complex along Broadway Street in downtown Nashville, has slated demolition of the landmark Draper Tower for Dec. 2, just weeks after the Southern Baptist entity moves to its new 277,000-square-foot home a few blocks away.

The sale of the 14.5-acre property was announced Nov. 24, 2015. An attorney for the new owners put the price tag at \$125 million in an article in the Tennessee newspaper in Nashville. Estimates for the redevelopment of the site top one billion dollars.

LifeWay was named the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) when it was established in 1891. It has used LifeWay as its corporate name since 1998.

With a total workforce of more than 4,000 employees in 29 states, LifeWay provides Sunday School literature and discipleship resources to churches throughout the SBC.

Among other LifeWay services (descriptions from respective web sites):

■ LifeWay Research, which helps assist and equip church leaders with insight and advice that will lead to greater levels of church health and effectiveness, utilizing surveys on today's church and culture.

■ B&H Publishing Group trade and academic books, LifeWay's publishing imprint that seeks to provide intentional, Bible-centered content that positively impacts the hearts and minds of people.

■ Numerous online services to churches.

■ LifeWay Christian Stores, which provide high-value products and services to the Christian community across the country.

■ Ridgecrest Conference Center outside Asheville, N.C.

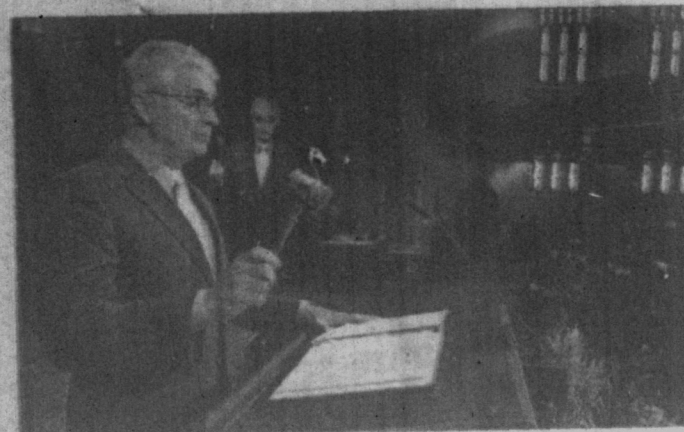
According to the 2015 sale announcement, redevelopment of the former LifeWay campus will encompass "mixed-use purposes that may include hotel, entertainment, commercial and creative office, and residential."

see LIFEWAY on p. 10



TO BE IMPOLODED — LifeWay Christian Resources' Draper Tower, with its massive stone crosses, is scheduled to be brought down by implosion in early December by the new owners of the complex in downtown Nashville, who are designing a billion-dollar redevelopment of the site. (BP/LifeWay photo)

2017 Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting reviewed next week



Doug Broome, Mississippi Baptist Convention president and senior pastor of First Church, Natchez, gavels into session the 132nd annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on the morning of Oct. 31 at First Church, Jackson. Complete coverage of the annual meeting will be available in next week's issue of The Baptist Record. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

800W-MKY CAR-RT LOT 0019
#0000 2911 10286
005 DTM S867 P1
SOUTHERN BAPT. HISTORICAL SOC.
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

It does happen here

We tend to read about violations against children in faraway places and comfort ourselves with the thought that it couldn't happen here. It does happen here, even in Mississippi Baptist churches that are unprepared.

Some time ago, The Baptist Record received this letter after an article was published on the importance of protecting our children at church. The author's name is being withheld. An edited version of his letter reads:

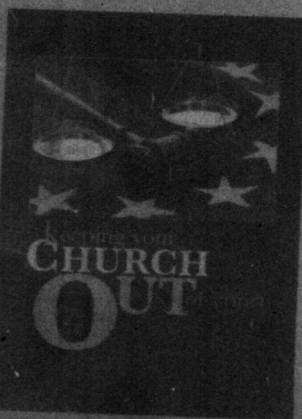
I still remember a Baptist preacher who molested me. I was twelve and thirteen years old. He stayed at our home while leading our church's revival. My parents, like everyone in the church, thought he was just great. I never told anyone what he did until I was grown and then only my wife. I'm sure he molested many other youth during his career.

A program that aired recently on Mississippi Public Radio quoted a Colorado law enforcement study which found the average pedophile arrested in Colorado molested around 150 different victims during their lifetime. I would assume the same holds true for Mississippi pedophiles.

A year or so ago I learned that this man is retired and living in Mississippi. I suffered no lasting emotional damage from his actions and forgave him long ago. I know I should have reported him to authorities at the time, or as soon as I became old enough to fully understand what he was doing, but I didn't. I see no purpose in naming him at this point. He is probably too old to hurt anyone now and whatever damage he did, has been done.

Certainly our churches today need to be more vigilant than were the churches of my youth.

There are concrete steps that churches can take to shrink the risk almost to zero. First, qualified legal counsel should always be on call to deal with any number of issues that could arise.



Another good start would be to acquire the publication, *Keeping Your Church Out of Court*, a step-by-step manual available for a small fee from the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Topics covered in the manual include Church Organization and Operation; Church Liability; Decision Makers Liability and Protection; Employment Law; Taxes and Governmental Compliance; and a number of model forms such as articles of incorporation, how to craft a church constitution, volunteer worker applications, and — probably most importantly — a child abuse prevention policy checklist.

No system is perfect and no plan is flawless, but every Mississippi Baptist church should take the actions necessary to shield our precious children from this ever-growing danger in our midst. For several decades now, sexualizing children and destroying their natural modesty have been two of the most serious problems in American culture, and are now sinking in to our once-unimpeachable institutions and churches.

The consequences of letting down our guard are high. Much is at stake, up to and including the souls of our children. Get started today at your church.

Pray for Church Planters

When I met Dan Coleman a few years ago, he was a church planter with a vision for reaching the state of Maine for Jesus — but he didn't have a lot of resources.

Maine can be a lonely place for a church planter. There are only a handful of Southern Baptist churches, encompassing fewer than one percent of the population. Across Maine, only 22% of the population attend a church of any kind on a weekly basis.

Still, God was working through Dan's church plant. Kennebec Community Church in Augusta had grown to 200. In fact, they had outgrown their meeting space. A church building across town was for sale but the one-million-dollar price tag was impossible for a church of Kennebec Community's size.

Because of Southern Baptists' resources sent to the North American Mission Board (NAMB) through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, NAMB is able to give loans to church plants like Dan's.

Most commercial lenders would not touch a church plant, but our in-house property buyer was able to negotiate the one million dollar price down to \$400,000 and we were able to provide the loan.

Overnight, Kennebec Community Church went from a building with a capacity of 75 people to one that holds 500. The church now averages 1,100 in weekend services.



Guest opinion
with Kevin Ezell

This story is only possible because Dan is connected to the greater Southern Baptist Convention family. I see the difference it makes every single day. Because of that connection, Dan is not alone. Now, his church is training several church planting interns who will soon be planting churches in the Northeast U.S.

This kind of a network means the world to our church planters and missionaries. Yes, they need financial resources but even more importantly, they need prayer and to know they are not forgotten.

I hope you will take a moment and visit PrayForPlanters.com. We will connect you with a missionary for whom you can pray. It's a simple, easy way you can start having an impact right now in pushing back lostness across North America.

Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Alpharetta, Ga.



HARD AT WORK — Dan Coleman (right), North American Mission Board 2017 Week of Prayer missionary, uses every opportunity to reach out to the community of Augusta, Maine, including connecting with staff at a local coffee shop.

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Liana Richardson
li Richardson@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Amy Massey
amassey@mbcb.org

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Whit Lewis, New Albany
Derrick Wilson, Kosciusko
Carolyn Reeves, Oxford
Garland Boyd, Brookhaven
Lucy Stringer, Foxworth
Don Hicke, Bay Springs

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205-0530.

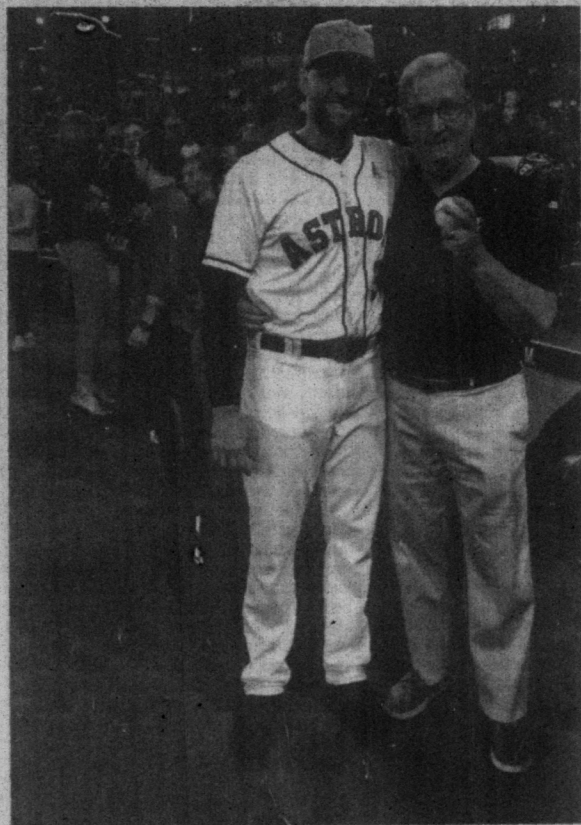
Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205-0530.

Tel: (501) 968-3800
Fax: (501) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

BAPTISTS

VOLUME 141 • NUMBER 43 • ISSN 0005-5778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$11.99 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Big leaguer keeps right perspective on God



COLLIN AND SCOTT MCHUGH

ATLANTA (BP) — There's no telling how many hours Scott McHugh and his wife Teresa have spent watching their son Collin play baseball over the years. From little leagues, to high school ball in the hot Georgia sun, to his college years at Berry College in Rome, Ga., to five seasons in the minor leagues, Collin toiled through wins, losses, triumphs, and failures with his parents never far away.

Now they're getting to see him on an even bigger stage, as Collin was a pitcher for the Houston Astros in his first World Series that was just concluded.

"It is a joy and delight for us to see him on that stage, all because we've watched him over the years and the process that he has gone through," Scott McHugh said. "It is still surreal to us. It's hard to imagine that your son is playing in the World Series."

A former Southern Baptist pastor, Scott came to the Lord as a 20-year-old in college preparing for a career in the medical field. Within a couple of weeks of his conversion, he knew that the Lord was calling him into the ministry.

He left school in 1973 and began working in youth ministry a few months later at a church in Atlanta. Over the years he served in a variety of roles at churches in the Atlanta area before returning to college at Toccoa Falls to complete his undergraduate degree.

He then graduated from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, before moving to Naperville, Ill., to

become pastor of Trinity Church.

McHugh said he and his wife felt a strong call from the Lord in 1994 to return to the Atlanta area. He started a church in Alpharetta and is now doing international work in Israel as president and CEO of Patriarch Global LLC.

The New York Mets drafted Collin out of Berry College in 2008. Over the next four years, he worked his way through the farm system — a sometimes grueling experience especially for players like him who are drafted late, get small signing bonuses, and often exist on little pay, lousy food, and long bus rides.

Then Collin got the call in 2012. "Just to see that turn was an amazing thing," Scott said. "We believe it was a God thing, that [God] has really given him not only determination but favor in the system."

When Collin made his big league debut with the New York Mets — an impressive start in which he pitched seven scoreless innings, struck out nine batters, and gave up just two hits to the opposing team — Scott and Teresa were there at Citi Field in New York City.

Collin moved on to the Colorado Rockies the following year for a brief stint before being released. After the Astros acquired him in 2014, he pitched just a few innings in the minor leagues before sticking with Houston for good. He won 11 games that year before an exceptional year in 2015 with 19 wins.

This year, Collin missed the first half of the season with an elbow injury but returned to win five games at the end of the season. In the American League Championship Series against the New York Yankees, he pitched four scoreless innings in a loss in game three, his only appearance in the playoffs thus far in 2017.

"In all of this, Collin and [his wife] Ashley have kept their love for the Lord and their understanding that they have a platform and really a responsibility to honor Him and to stay focused in their walk as well as manage this highest level baseball career," Scott McHugh said.

In a recent Sports Spectrum article, Collin talked about how he continues to cling to God during the ups and downs that invariably come in baseball and in life.

"If I had a terrible year this year or got hurt this year or won the Cy Young or won the World Series, if any of these things happen, all the variables that could happen in baseball, it's not going to change the way [God] feels about me, it's not going to change anything," Collin said.

"For me, this year, I'm just trying to enjoy the time God has given me to play this game that I really do love. Everything is kind of icing on the cake at this point. Obviously, I'm going to go out there and work my hardest, and give it everything that I have and try to do some great things in this game, but He has already given me so much that I want to tell people about it."

Astros wall ad spotlights Houston's First Church

HOUSTON (BP) — At a critical moment in this year's Major League Baseball playoffs, pursuit of a Houston Astros home run ball at Minute Maid Park in Houston caused New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge to crash into a right field sign promoting Houston's First Church.

Minutes later, the church tweeted to Judge, a candidate for both the American League Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year awards, "Our church is more welcoming and forgiving than our sign."

Being in the World Series, also known as the Fall Classic, was a welcome development in a city still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

First Church's ties with the Astros this season also included an appearance by team president Reid Ryan at a church staff gathering. First Church's Spanish campus pastor Juan Jesus Alaniz is the Astros' Spanish-language chaplain.

Last season, First Church's contemporary worship team sang the national anthem at an Astros home game. Over the years, Astros players have been

church members with at least one or two receiving baptism. First Church director of communications Steven Murray told Baptist Press.

Additionally, there have been First Church nights at Minute Maid Park and senior pastor Gregg Matte has thrown out the first pitch before a home game.

During Houston's World Series run, an increasing number of baseball fans noted First Church's connections with the Astros. One apparently surprised playoff viewer tweeted after Judge's crash into the sign and the resultant tweet from First Church: "Bro, ...a church just roasted Judge."

Midwestern Seminary President Jason Allen in Kansas City, Mo., tweeted, "Pretty cool seeing Judge crash into FBC Houston wall ad to rob a homerun in [American League Championship Series] game 7 tonight."

Murray said the spiritual value of supporting the Astros "is being present in a secular space, where people might think... the church is some archaic building that's only relevant on Sunday, if that. This is saying, 'No, we're a member of the community.

We're a part of what's going on in Houston.'"

The outfield sign materialized in March, when another sponsor backed out of the advertising opportunity and the Astros asked First Church to consider a sign in right field. The funds were available, Murray said, "because of the ongoing generosity of our church family."

Throughout the season, members and nonmembers alike have tweeted photos of the sign. "People are noticing," Murray said.

Alaniz is completing his second season as an Astros chaplain. His wife Josie Ban-Alaniz is in her first season as chaplain for the wives of English- and Spanish-speaking players and coaches.

Jose Jesus Alaniz said of the 25 players on Houston's postseason roster, nearly half are native Spanish speakers. During the season, he has held chapel services before Sunday home games and made himself available for pastoral counseling and prayer throughout the week.

His chaplain ministry also includes visiting teams and umpires and is organized through Baseball Chapel in Largo, Fla., whose web



IT'S A HIT! — Houston Astros fans sitting above a sign for First Church, Houston, Texas, explode with excitement during the Astros' battle with the New York Yankees for the 2017 World Series title in Minute Maid Park in Houston. First Church was deeply involved in ministry to the Major League Baseball team during their season-long run to the World Series. (BP screen capture courtesy of MLB.com)

site describes the organization's mission as to "bring encouragement to people in the world of professional baseball through the Gospel so that some become disciplined followers of Jesus Christ."

Murray said First Church "is just glad to be a part of something that's so exciting going on in our city, especially after our city has been through so much in the last couple of months."

Porcupines are interesting animals. I have seen porcupines in zoos but only once have I seen a porcupine in the open, loose and running wild. It happened as I was riding a bicycle around a lake. As I went around a curve, there between me and the water about six feet from me was a porcupine who was as shocked and surprised to see me as I was to see him. He immediately turned toward me, showed his teeth, and bristled all of his quills.

When I was growing up, I heard stories and tales about porcupines. There were overblown stories of how if you got close to one, they would shoot their quills at you like arrows or spears. You would be in a heap of trouble. Those were over-exaggerated stories to say the least, but until that day on the lakeside I had never actually encountered one in the wild. After I went forty or fifty more yards down the roadway and gathered myself together, my wits and curiosity converged to say, "You need to go look at that guy." I turned around to see if I could find him again. I could not find him as he apparently was not as anxious to see me as I was to see him. I may never see another one in the wild, but I will never forget the one that I did see.

While I have only seen one porcupine out there on his own, I have met a number of porcupine people in my days. They are interesting, too. Like real porcupines, they have quills they can raise and point at others and use for their own protection and sometimes to hurt others. When they bristle, most folks notice it. If you get close to them, you may get stuck. Their quills are not the kind that are prevalent in the four-legged porcupine family but porcupine people seem to have developed a demeanor that just lets folks know, "Don't get close to me



Porcupine People

and don't appear to in any way offend or disagree with me."

In that demeanor and sometimes by their words, actions, or emotional expressions, porcupine people let you know they have a protective shell surrounding them. They go about their daily activities for the most part, prickly to everyone they get around like family, friends, and work associates. All who come in contact with them learn to be careful around a porcupine person. Walk on eggshells. Be cautious, or you will get stuck.

Four-legged porcupines apparently find ways of relating without doing a great deal of harm to one other. With all their quills and protective covering, they must be able to get along with each other well enough for propagation of the species. The truth is they need each other. The fact is porcupine people need each other also.

I'm not mad at porcupines. I'm not even upset with porcupine people be-

cause if truth be known, all of us at some time or other have been probably been a porcupine person. It's not the best way to win friends and influence people. It's not the best way to get along with whoever you're forced to be around and engage in a relationship, whether it's business or social.

In Scripture, you can find porcupine people if you just look closely. You'd run into those folks who were disciples of Jesus who seemed to be a little bit reactionary, who were prickly and maybe at times lived in the porcupine cult. Like who? Well, think about those disciples that Jesus called Sons of Thunder. At times they wanted to reign down wrath and condemnation on others. During those periods in their lives, you may not have wanted to be best friends with them.

Think about the best known of all the disciples: Simon Peter, who in a moment of reaction and outburst jerked out a sword and cut off a man's ear. He wasn't

always that way, but you might approach him cautiously if you had a disagreement with him and not get close enough to get your ear within shot of his sword. Think about the disciple named Thomas, who we have clearly labeled as Doubting Thomas. Time and again his quick response to matters was, "Well, this is bad and it's going to get worse. I won't believe it until I see it." With a kind of ill-spiritedness, he reacted without faith and believed the end was always near.

So what do we do if we have porcupine people around us? It's important that we learn to deal with them and try to care for them without getting stuck. Maybe a better question would be, "How do folks learn to deal with us when our quills are out?" The Apostle Paul gave us the best word if we would just listen to him. In Ephesians 4:32 he said, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Paul had likely run into enough porcupine people at churches who bristled and expressed their disagreement with him. Even more likely, enough people had run into Paul when he was vehement about an idea and they wondered what to do with him. All of us might gather in an experience with Jesus to be kind one to another, tender hearted, and willing to forgive because indeed we need each other. The Lord calls us to be a fellowship and a family of faith and support in His Kingdom work.

Today as you go about your business, leave your quills at home. Put on a smile and have a good word for any of the people porcupines you run into. They need you, and at times you will need them.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbeeb.org.

U.S. Senate friends promote racial healing initiative

WASHINGTON (BP) — For two United States senators, the solution to America's racial divisions could start simply with a meal in a home.

Sens. James Lankford (R.-Ok.) and Tim Scott (R.-S.C.) are telling the country about their Solution Sunday Initiative, a now 15-month effort to encourage Americans to invite a family of another race into their homes to eat and visit.

The pair launched the initiative in 2016 after the police shooting deaths of African American men in Baton Rouge, La., and St. Paul, Minn., as well as the killings of police officers in Baton Rouge and Dallas, again brought racial tension to the forefront.

The senators are promoting the effort with a new video in the wake of the August demonstrations in Charlottesville, Va., between white nationalists and counter-protesters that resulted in violence and death. The video is available at [youtube.com/watch?v=MGQJ558s-f4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGQJ558s-f4).

"The birth of [Solution Sunday] for me was hearing once again people on the news saying we needed to have a national conversation on race," Lankford said in the video produced by his office and released Oct. 10.

"I think sometimes we think we need to get elected officials and media people and famous people around a big table and have a camera around and to say they're going to talk about race and the whole country is going to go follow. That's not how it ever happens."

"I tell folks all the time, 'I think the only way that we'll get all the issues on the table is if we get all of our feet under the same table,'" said Lankford, a Southern Baptist.

Scott said on the video, "We typically grow up in pools that are homogenous — that everyone that's in your circle of influence looks like you, talks like you, has similar values, come[s] from similar backgrounds with similar experiences. So your natural inclination is to stay within your comfort zone."

"What this [initiative] asks is for those folks who come from that homogenous pool to take a step out of it and venture into someone else's territory and learn as much as you possibly can about someone else. I'd say lean in. Don't just dip your toe into it."

Scott is a member of Seacoast Church, a large non-denominational church outside Charles-



A NEW INITIATIVE — U.S. Senators Tim Scott (left), a Republican from South Carolina, and James Lankford, a Republican from Oklahoma, are interviewed on CNN cable news network about their Solution Sunday initiative. (BP screen capture courtesy of CNN)

ton, S.C. He is a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives (2011-13) and is the only Republican African American member of the Senate.

Lankford is a former staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. He left the convention to successfully run for the House of Representatives (2011-15) before making his bid for the Senate.

Christian leaders have applauded the initiative. "I'm thankful for this very practical

idea from two leaders I greatly respect," said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

"We have massive issues of systemic injustice to address in this country, and one of the obstacles is this time of polarization. We cannot love others, and bear one another's burdens, if we remain in silos away from one another. I pray this initiative helps to chip away at the walls between Americans,"

Moore told Baptist Press in written comments.

Lankford said Solution Sunday is a simple idea that began with a question he asked people he met in Washington, in Oklahoma, on an airplane, or wherever he was: "Have you ever had another family of another race at your home for dinner?"

"Most people smiled at me and said, 'I know friends of another race,' or 'I work with people of another race,' but I had almost no one, maybe one or two, in over a couple of weeks that answered, 'Yes,' to the simple question, 'Has your family ever invited a family of another race to your home for a meal?'"

Lankford approached Scott about joining him to lead the effort. Scott recalled, "Honestly, my first thought was, 'Wow. Here's a white guy from Oklahoma who cares enough to address an incredibly important issue to America that is often times seen simply through a lens that happens to be black, and the reality of it is this is an American issue that could lead to an American crisis,' and so when he asked me to partner with him on a solution I thought that was just a wonderful opportunity for me to live out the biblical worldview."

Study reveals crucial traits in child-rearing

NASHVILLE (BP) — Most church-going Protestant parents of young adults say their kids grew up to be Christians — but their parents also say half of them don't actually practice the Christian faith.

That's according to a LifeWay Research survey released Oct. 17, which found the biggest factor in predicting children's spiritual health as young adults is whether they read the Bible regularly as kids.

Those are among the findings of the study, which was conducted Sept. 22-Oct. 5, 2016, among Protestant churchgoers about parenting and spirituality. The survey was sponsored by LifeWay Kids for use in the book, *Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith*, which was released Oct. 2.

For the study, researchers surveyed 2,000 Protestant and nondenominational churchgoers. All attend services at least once a month and have adult children ages 18-30.

Researchers wanted to know what parenting practices pay off over the long haul when it comes to spiritual health, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. "Churchgoing parents want to pass on their faith to their kids and to see their children make that faith their own, but they don't always know how best to make that happen."

LifeWay Research took a twofold approach to the study. First, researchers asked parents about 40 factors that could affect a child's moral and spiritual development. Among them: whether the child's parents had been divorced, whether the family prayed or ate meals together, what kind of school the child attended, how often the child went to church or youth group, and even what kind of music the child listened to growing up.

LifeWay Research then asked parents to describe their adult children's spiritual health, using eight observable factors. Each child received one point if he or she:

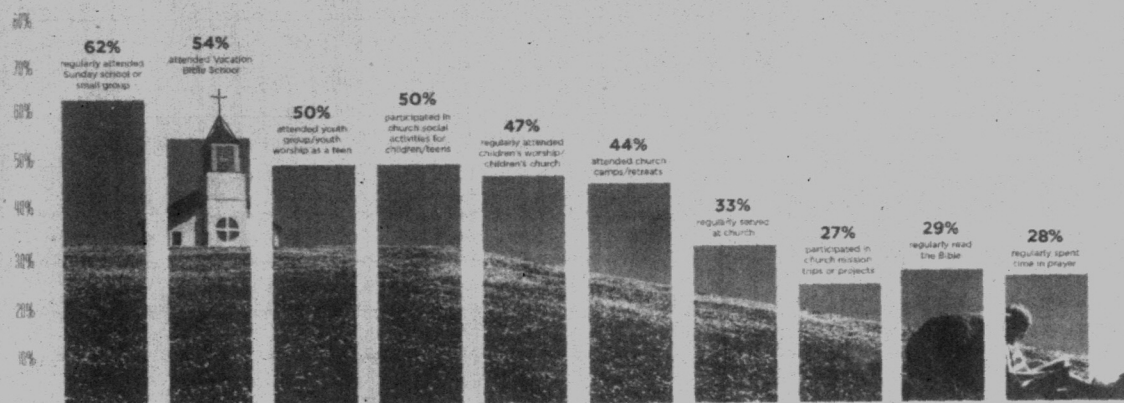
- Identifies as a Christian.
- Shares his or her faith with unbelievers.
- Is involved in church.
- Reads the Bible regularly.
- Serves in a church.
- Teaches others at church.
- Serves in the community.
- Supports local or foreign missions.

Parents gave observations for a total of 3,472 adult children. Eighty-five percent identify as Christians, according to their parents, giving them at least one point on the eight-point spiritual health scale.

Only three percent had a score of eight, the highest possible. Two-thirds had a score of two or less. Half had a score of zero or one, meaning they either don't identify as Christians (11%) or they identify as Christians but

Top spiritual activities when growing up

AMONG THE YOUNG ADULT CHILDREN OF PROTESTANT CHURCHGOING FAMILIES

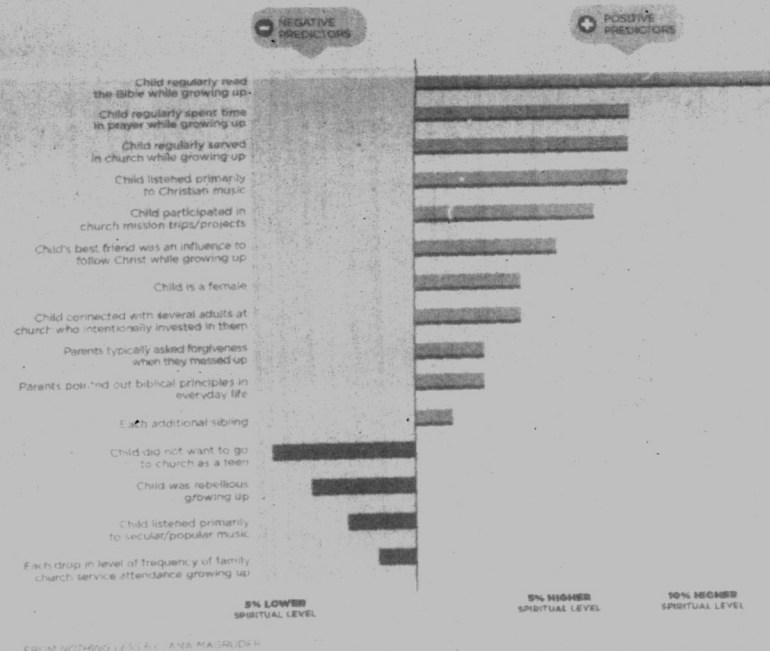


RESEARCH PROVIDED BY JANA MAGRUDER

LifeWay
RESEARCH

NOTE: LifeWay Research asked Protestant churchgoing parents to describe the upbringing and current spiritual health of their young adult children.

Best predictors of spiritual health among young adults



FROM NOTHING LESS BY JANA MAGRUDER

LifeWay
RESEARCH

NOTE: LifeWay Research asked Protestant churchgoing parents to describe the upbringing and current spiritual health of their young adult children. These 15 factors were the most predictive of spiritual health in young adulthood. These factors have a cumulative effect.

have none of the other spiritual practices (39%).

LifeWay Research then compared the results of all these young adults to find out which factors predict the highest spiritual condition.

The top factor: Bible reading. Twenty-nine percent of the young adults regularly read the Bible while growing up, according to their parents. On average, that group has 12.5% higher spiritual health than otherwise comparable

individuals who didn't, LifeWay Research found.

In addition, spiritual health levels are 7.5% higher on average for young adults who regularly spent time praying while growing up (28%), regularly served

in church (33%) or listened to primarily Christian music (22%) than for comparable individuals who didn't.

Scores averaged 6.25% higher for young adults who participated in a church mission trip while growing up (27%) than for comparable individuals who didn't.

Doing all five of these practices in childhood could boost a young adult's spiritual health score by 41%, putting the young adult above the 90th percentile, McConnell said.

"Practicing your faith in specific ways really pays off later in life," he said.

Jana Magruder, director of LifeWay Kids and author of *Nothing Less*, said it's easy for parents to be caught up in the busyness of life and not ground their kids in the practice of reading the Bible. "The key takeaway from the study is a simple yet profound finding that God's Word truly is what changes lives," she said.

Researchers identified a few factors that point to lower spiritual health for young adults. Those whose parents say they did not want to go to church as teens (22%) score five percent lower on spiritual health as young adults. Those whose parents say they were rebellious (16%) had scores 3.75% lower than others, and those who listened primarily to secular music (58%) had scores 2.5 percent lower.

Attending popular church activities such as youth groups and Vacation Bible School predicts spiritual health for young adults, but only when linked to core practices such as reading the Bible and serving, McConnell noted. Other activities such as family meals did not show up as key predictors in this study.

Just for the Record



NEW EL BETHEL CHURCH, OXFORD, recently ordained Christopher Clarkson and Benjamin Barbee as deacons. Shown are Clarkson, pastor Bobby Snow, and Barbee.



GILLSBURG CHURCH, GILLSBURG, celebrated the continued service of Victor Walsh and his wife Sherry during Pastor Appreciation Month.



PARKWAY CHURCH, HOUSTON, ordained John Michael Rhyne as deacon Oct. 22. Shown are his wife Andi, pastor Randy Rinehart, and Rhyne.



CENTER TERRACE CHURCH, CANTON, held a baby/child dedication service Oct. 15. Shown are Brandon and Elizabeth Bate-man with daughter Emma Elizabeth; Kolby McNeer with child Ella Grace Nations; Laureen Lavender with child Zoey Lavender and friend; and Mason and Casey Canoy with baby Sawyer Mitchell.



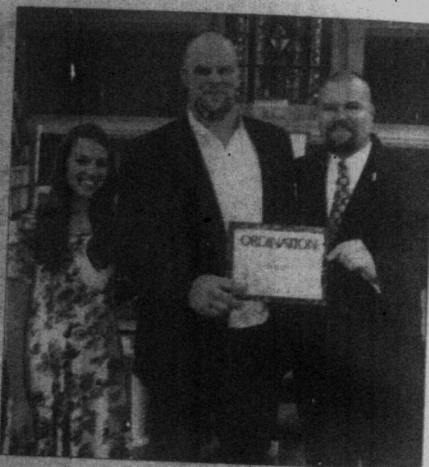
FIRST CHURCH, POPLARVILLE, held an ordination service Oct. 22. Shown, front row, are Adam Johnson, Terry Beach, and Ryan Jackson; back row, Addison and Kara Johnson, Holly Johnson, pastor Kipp Smith, Steve Reid, and Rebecca Jackson.



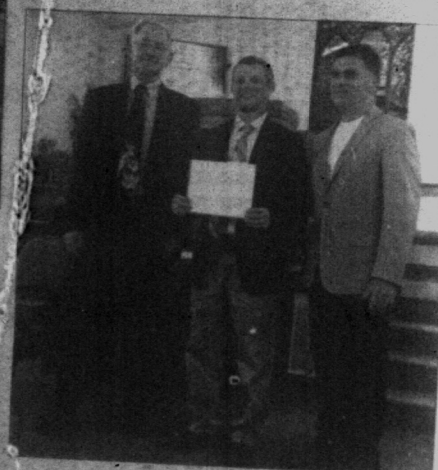
At the Fun Fall Festival at **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG,** children, along with parents and grandparents, enjoyed events such as a sack race, toss the egg, build an airplane, and cupcake walk.



The Gathering, the women's ministry of **FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, HERNANDO,** made 100 dresses for young girls. The dresses were donated to missionaries to give away on the mission field.



MORGAN CHAPEL CHURCH, OKTIB-BEHA COUNTY, ordained Brian Anderson as deacon. Shown are Kyle Anderson, Anderson, and Gary Roberson.



SUNRISE CHURCH, PETAL, recently or-dained Dustin Millwood as deacon. Shown are Frank Payne, Millwood, and Daniel Caldwell.



SHELTON CHURCH, MOSELLE, honored Roger B. Smith Oct. 8 for 53 years of service as church treasurer. Finance committee chairman Jim Peden presented a recognition plaque during the 110th homecoming service.

Just for the Record



The residents and staff of Magnolia Nursing Home welcomed Joyful Noise, the senior adult choir of **FIRST CHURCH, FLORA**.



The children's ministry of **FIRST CHURCH, BOONEVILLE**, recently honored pastor Jason Reed, along with his wife Angela and daughter Cathryn with a pastor's appreciation breakfast.



Senior adults from **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB**, went to Crystal Springs for the Garden and Flower Festival Oct. 13, followed by lunch at Porches in Wesson.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will host comedian, southern gospel artist, and motivational speaker Tim Lovelace Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Love offering. Hal Hood, pastor.

► **First Church, Clara**, will host its annual Autumn Celebration Nov. 5. Games and silent auction, 4 p.m., with a potluck meal at 6. All proceeds will go to the Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief offering. Richard A. Bradley, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, NETTLETON, ordained student minister David Smith to the ministry. Shown is Tommy Hawkins, Smith, Gina Smith, and Donald Pounders.



Men from **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB** and a group of students and parents with McComb Homeschool Network helped do some upkeep and cleanup with the Wayside Chapel used for prayer and worship by campers, as well as weddings, at Percy Quinn State Park.

FIRST CHURCH, BRUCE, ordained Turner Moore and Brent Harrelson as deacons. Shown are Moore, Gary Roberson, and Harrelson.



Revivals & Homecomings



IMMANUEL CHURCH, GREENWOOD, celebrated its 50th anniversary on Annual Day Oct. 8. Shown are charter and current members.

► **Calvary Church, Petal**: Revival, Nov. 5 - 10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. nightly; Stephen Wyles, speaker; Calvary Choir led by Boyd Tweedy, music.

► **Victory Church, Hernando**: Revival, Nov. 5 - 8; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Bob Pitman, speaker; Blake Krumalis, music; David Thomas, pastor.

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY students enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program participated in Global Physical Therapy Day of Service on October 14. Forty students and two faculty members volunteered at three community organizations in Hattiesburg - the Salvation Army, Fieldhouse for the Homeless, and the Lamar County Baptist Association. Pictured are WCU students and assistant professor Ron Burns who painted at the Lamar County Baptist Association office; (back, from left) Jake Peterson, Daniel Speed, Lauren Ulrich, Meghan Maddox, Katherine Brewer, Burns, (front, from left) Heidi Ladner, Jana Braddy, Amanda Bertoldi, Kristen Little, Alyssa Fuller.



UPHELD — Jessica Duran announces her lawsuit against Southwestern Women's Options, an abortion clinic, in 2016 for deceptive and misleading practices. (BP photo courtesy of New Mexico Alliance for Life)

Lawsuit targeting abortion clinic set to go to trial

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — A woman's lawsuit against a New Mexico abortion center will proceed after a New Mexico judge refused to dismiss her case.

Jessica Duran filed suit last year against Southwestern Women's Options (SWO) for not telling her about its relationship with the University of New Mexico (UNM) and the possibility that it sent her dead baby there for research.

The abortion center and abortion doctor Curtis Boyd filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, but New Mexico district judge Clay Campbell ruled this month that all seven counts filed against SWO — including negligent supervision and intentional infliction of emotional distress — merit a trial by jury.

Because the consent form Duran signed before her abortion "only authorized the clinic and/or physician to perform any research, the plaintiff Jessica Duran did not have knowledge of the facts, conditions, or circumstances that would have caused her to make a reasonable inquiry into whether someone or some other entity other than the clinic and/or treating physician may perform research on any donated tissue or parts," Campbell wrote.

Elisa Martinez, director of New Mexico Alliance for Life, said her organization is optimistic Duran will win at trial, since the facts are "clear and unambiguous."

"This case is a monumental decision in that it shows what we and the Select Panel on Infant Lives have been pointing out all along, that women are being deceived and taken

advantage of by the abortion industry," Martinez said. "The very reason the abortion industry seeks to deceive women like Jessica about the value of their baby is the very reason the bodies are harvested for parts: their humanity."

Last year, the U.S. House of Representatives Select Panel on Infant Lives, chaired by Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tn.), disclosed the relationship between UNM and SWO and requested an investigation by New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas, a Democrat.

After the House panel procured and published a log of baby body parts collected by SWO for UNM researchers, Duran suspected her baby was among their number.

Duran said her abortion haunts her, and discovering researchers might have used her baby for experiments added to her pain. Staff never told her what could become of her baby or that she could have declined to participate in the research program.

The research consent form staff gave her was the same as the one providing consent for the abortion procedure.

In her lawsuit, Duran claims SWO staff "violated my right to choose."

"We found evidence that women were being misled by these consent forms," Blackburn noted in a statement. "I welcome this ruling and applaud Ms. Duran for continuing her fight against these injustices on behalf of the women who have endured the same."

The case will now go to trial, although a judge has not yet set a date for jury selection.

First Person: Would Jesus go to high school ball games?

By Eric W. Ramsey
Correspondent

FORT SMITH, Ark. (BP) —

This fall, like every other fall, the most densely populated pieces of real estate in many cities and towns are high school football stadiums on Friday night.

The cheers, the band, the clashing of helmets and shoulder pads, and the voice of the announcer ring through the cool night air, creating an electrifying atmosphere. It is one of the significant places where life happens, fostering lifelong memories and relationships.

When Jesus walked this earth, He intentionally spent time in the places where life happens: water wells, markets, outer temple courts,



RAMSEY

sea sides, and even wedding celebrations.

Jesus spent time among the masses, and within those masses were families and individuals with whom He interacted and even shared meals. He expressed love and kindness to both the young and the elderly, to the rich and the poor, to the simple and the educated, and to the socially prominent and the outcast.

As believers, we are commanded to be salt and light and to be witnesses and make disciples. This requires that believers be with people who need Christ. The easiest way to do this is the way Jesus did — intentionally being among others and sharing life with them.

In your town, is there a better place to do this than at a football game? If there's a better place, go there but if not, go to some high school football games. Meet people, foster relationships, and be where life happens. When

you go to games, don't just sit with your church friends. Make an effort to go out of your way to meet people, learn their names, understand family connections, and share life together.

Would Jesus go to a high school football game? It's a hypothetical question, but I believe He desires to be there now. As believers, we should intentionally take Christ and be Christ in our culture. In many communities, a big part of our culture is high school football.

Go team!

Ramsey is an evangelism and mission strategist serving as associate pastor of First Church in Fort Smith, Ar. His column first appeared in the Arkansas Baptist News (arkansasbaptist.org/news), news journal of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

MS POSITIONS

THE CALHOUN COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS. All interested applicants should send a resume to: Calhoun County Baptist Association, Drawer S, Calhoun City, MS 38916-0914 / ATTENTION: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. Deadline to apply is November 15th.

ROCKY POINT BAPTIST CHURCH, CARTHAGE, MS, IN LEAKE COUNTY IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Dian Grundy, 3136 Rocky Point Rd, Carthage, Ms. 39051

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send Resumes to: 824 China Grove Rd., Jayes, MS 39641 or brodie54@bellsouth.net

RED BANKS BAPTIST CHURCH IS PRAYFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please send resumes to Red Banks Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9, Red Banks, MS 38661.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER/DIRECTOR. Send resumes to Unity Baptist Church, Youth Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, Mississippi 39459

CLASSIFIEDS

SALE: 2016 15 PASSENGER VAN Ford with high ceiling with luggage space 38,000 payout, 48,000 purchase price 15,000 miles. For more information contact Marvin 601-317-0905

RETIRED PASTOR WHO LOVES TO PREACH SEEKS CHURCH FOR PULPIT SUPPLY OR BI-VOCATIONAL POSITION. Size of church is unimportant and compensation is very flexible. Willing to travel up to 60 miles from Jackson. Please call James Blakely at 801-832-7930.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

GATLINBURG RENTAL: Cabin \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4760@aol.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-805-2970

CHURCH PFW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quilman, Miss. phone 601-776-6817.

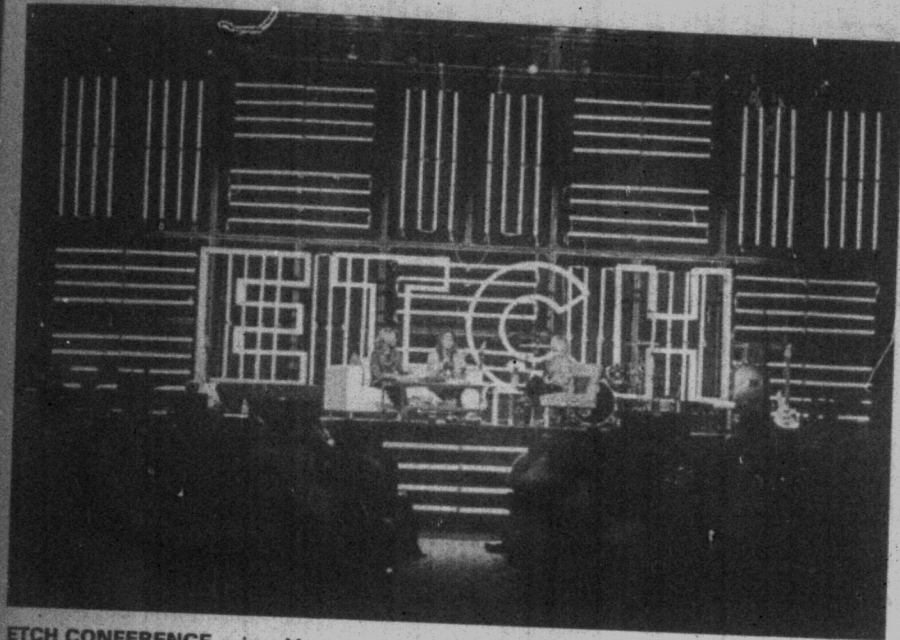
WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebrén. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 801-709-4879.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, ME-RIDAN, DESIGN, FABRICATION, REPAIR. Heidelbergstainedglass.com or call: wk 801-483-7958 or cell 601-616-1390.

PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpits on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or bennyhornsby.com

HOPPER STAINED GLASS: Custom windows, restoration and repairs, safety and insulated glass, custom aluminum and wood frames. Statewide 601-502-0202. www.hopperglass.net



ETCH CONFERENCE — Jana Magruder (right), director of LifeWay Kids, interviews Raechel Myers (left) and Amanda Bible Williams from SheReadsTruth.com at the ETCH 2017 conference. (BP photo courtesy of LifeWay)

Speakers ETCH church, family on 1,000 leaders

NASHVILLE (BP) — More than 1,000 ministry leaders gathered in Nashville in mid-October for the 2017 ETCH event hosted by LifeWay Christian Resources.

ETCH, which stands for Equipping The Church and Home, offered attendees more than 50 breakout session options, a concert event, and worship led by the Stephen Cole Band. Experts on children's and student ministry, including LifeWay's Eric Geiger, Jana Magruder, Ben Trueblood and others spoke during the main conference sessions.

"Discipleship isn't just receiving information or behavior modification; it's about transformation," said LifeWay's Senior Vice President Eric Geiger, who spoke on making disciples of children and students.

Geiger reminded attendees that demons had knowledge about God and the Pharisees had behavior modification, but neither group had Christ ruling their hearts.

"We're after kids' hearts not just being formed, but transformed," he said.

Geiger also said true discipleship can't happen apart from God's Word. "The number one predictor of spiritual growth in kids is them being in the Bible," he said, citing a new study by LifeWay Research.

"The church and the Bible rank low on the list of where Americans look for parenting

advice," said Jana Magruder, director of LifeWay Kids, "and only 29% of parents say faith is an important influence on their parenting," she reported, pointing to a LifeWay Research study. "As a culture, we're chasing the wrong things."

The research also shows the frequency of spiritual activities of children in Protestant churchgoing families, Magruder noted. Church-related activities such as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School attendance topped the chart, while personal spiritual activities such as daily Scripture reading ranked near the bottom.

Yet regular Bible reading in childhood is by far the number one indicator of spiritual health in young adulthood, said Magruder, author of *Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith*.

"There's no right answer for how to read the Bible with your kids; you just have to find a way to do it that fits your family and style," Magruder said. "It's so profound, but so simple."

Ben Trueblood, director of student ministry at LifeWay, recounted Moses' final words to the Israelites in which he pleaded with them to choose life by clinging to God's Word.

"The Israelites were to follow the whole counsel of God they had in that moment," Trueblood said. "If we're to make disciples of children and teenagers, we have to give them

the whole counsel of God — not just passages that are easy."

God's Word, Trueblood said, is the most important thing children can take with them from church ministries. "When children leave with only a handful of stories and not the whole counsel of God, they leave with a crippled faith," he warned.

"Their faith is stunted by the books of the Bible we leave closed. We must give them the only thing that will grow their faith. It's not our funny anecdotes; it's God's Word in its entirety."

Eric Mason, pastor at Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia, Pa., called for stamina in ministering to children and students.

One way to endure is to avoid making comparisons with other ministries, Mason said. "Be very careful of being jealous of what someone else is able to do," he warned. "Be satisfied with where God has placed you."

Mason concluded the conference with the call, "Don't give up. Keep plowing, keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and let nothing get in the way of your commitment to seeing Christ formed in children and youth."

Other speakers at the ETCH conference included Joshua Straub, LifeWay's marriage and family strategist; Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; author Rebekah Lyons; and Raechel Myers and Amanda Bible Williams from SheReadsTruth.com.

Youngster learns early how to help people in need

JEMISON, Ala. (BP) — When four-year-old Holden Roberts saw a news report featuring a little girl whose family had taken shelter from Hurricane Irma as it scoured the Florida landscape earlier this summer, it made him sad to think that kids had to leave their favorite toys behind.

Holden's favorite toy is a log truck but he asked his parents, Brett and Julie Roberts, about sending some of his other toys to the children who had lost theirs.

"I explained that the families might have some more immediate needs, but I told him we could find a way to help," said Julie Roberts, whose family attends Pleasant Grove Church #1 in Jemison, Al.

The family decided to create a pumpkin patch at their home in Jemison with pumpkins purchased from a farmer's market in Birmingham. On Sept. 16, the family was out early setting up the pumpkin patch. They spent the day selling pumpkins to family, church friends, and neighbors who not only got a pumpkin for their fall decorations but contributed to hurricane relief as well.

Holden's father and grandfather work in sales and Holden has the gift too, his mom said.

"As people were looking them over, he would ask, 'Do you like that pumpkin? I'll load it up for you.' It worked out perfect," she noted.

By the end of the day, Holden had sold 40 regular pumpkins and 22 stackable

"We could have just given him money to give, but encouraging him to put forth the work even at a young age was my main goal," she said. "He saw a need and he put in the effort to earn money to give."

Julie Roberts

Holden's mom

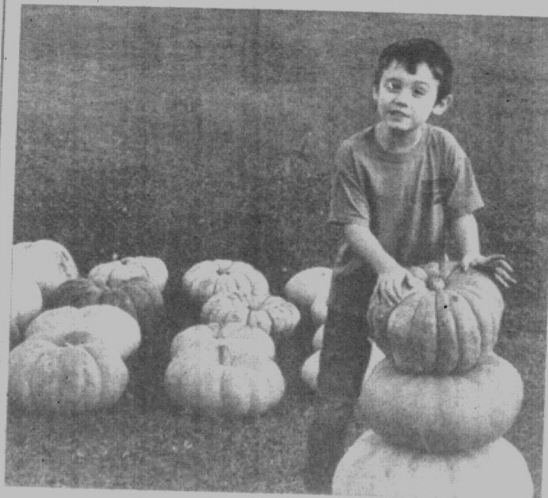
pumpkins — their entire inventory — and had raised \$400 for Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief. Holden and his family made the trip to the Chilton Association office to present the donation to director of missions Larry Felkins.

"It's a testimony to his parents and their character that they encouraged him in his desire to help others who are suffering. It's a compliment to his church as well. Someone has taught him about missions," Felkins said.

The pumpkin patch definitely reinforced lessons about serving and giving that Holden learns at his church, his mom said.

"We could have just given him money to give, but encouraging him to put forth the work even at a young age was my main goal," she said. "He saw a need and he put in the effort to earn money to give."

Editor's note: Article and photo are courtesy of The Alabama Baptist.



HOLDEN ROBERTS

LIFEWAY

cont. from p. 1

The removal of 12-story Draper Tower will be followed by demolition in early 2018 of 11-story Sullivan Tower, named for Mississippi native James L. Sullivan, who grew up in Sullivan's Hollow near Tylertown. He was president of the Sunday School Board from 1953-75 and also a former two-term SBC president.

The LifeWay Christian Store on the site has already relocated and that building razed. It will reopen in mid-November as part of the new headquarters.

Several historic and iconic accents of the original campus will be preserved, including medal Scripture medallions, LifeWay communications director Carol Pipes said.

LifeWay's 1,100 downtown Nashville employees are on schedule to move to the newly-constructed headquarters in the Capitol View urban development in mid-November, Pipes said.

The new site will retain the entity's history and values, LifeWay CEO and President Thom Rainer has promised. The building will include stained glass windows from the Van Ness Auditorium, and a Scripture medallion featuring John 14:6, the foundation for the entity's name.

"There will be historically significant items throughout these floors," Rainer has told LifeWay trustees, "and there will be Scripture prominent everywhere."

Editor's notes: Sullivan Tower photograph courtesy of Wikipedia Commons/Micah Drushal. William H. Perkins Jr., editor of The Baptist Record, contributed to this article.



SULLIVAN TOWER



BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE

Mike Brooks
Agency Principal

an authorized agency of
Brotherhood Mutual
Insurance Company

Call today for a free quote **601.208.0920**

or email: mike@brooksministryinsurance.com

Property • Auto • Liability • Workers' Compensation

SUPPORT A LOCAL BUSINESS AND BUY A NATIONAL NAME AT THE SAME TIME. A WIN-WIN FOR MS CHURCHES.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God
in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

PWOHN EWN NCJHUDA WA

NWRWLLWQ; AWL NCWK VEWQUHN

EWN QCON O TOJ ROJ PLXEB AWLNC.

GLWTULPH NQUENJ-HUIUE: WEU

Clue: P = B.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 69:5

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

"Hearing is Believing"

For a **FREE** consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

audio SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3333. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

Set Before • Leviticus 1:3-9; 2:1-3; 3:1-5

What is your favorite book of the Bible? The Psalms? Ephesians? Next question: When was the last time you heard a sermon from the book of Leviticus? Samuel Balentine writes, "Leviticus is perhaps the most neglected of the neglected biblical books." However, when you begin to study you realize this is the most Christ-centered book of the Old Testament. The offerings, the office and duties of the priests, and then the feasts and festivals all point to Christ. W. A. Criswell writes, "Leviticus is one of the most important books of the Old Testament. Without an understanding of the principles of atonement and holiness found in Leviticus, much of the New Testament would have no foundation on which to rest. To say that Leviticus is one of the 'most New Testament' books of the Old Testament would hardly be an exaggeration, for it foreshadows the Person and work of Christ in a most remarkable and elucidating manner." (www.preceptaustin.org)

The book of Leviticus, known as "that which pertains to the Levites", teaches the people how to worship and obey Him. There are three major themes: Holiness, sacrifice, and atonement. As you study, note the verbatim quotations from God Himself, underline the word holy and set your map

aside for there is no movement in this book. It would also be helpful to have a chart regarding "The Offerings of the LORD" which you can Google or find in a study Bible. In today's focal point it should be noted the three offerings were to be given voluntarily; they were "a sweet aroma to the LORD"

The Burnt Offering - (Lev. 1:3-9; 6:8-13) - "The LORD called", meaning He is the one who takes the

initiative to pursue fellowship with His people. Moses was to "Speak to the Israelites and tell them..." (v.2). Depending on your financial status, the individual was to offer from the herd or flock a bull without blemish, a male sheep or goat without blemish, or turtledoves or young pigeons. Once the animal or bird was chosen it was to be brought to the door (v. 3), killed before the Lord (v. 5), laid in order upon the altar (v. 8), the blood was to be sprinkled (v. 5), entrails must be washed (v. 9), and ALL laid upon the altar (v.

9). This offering represented a person's heart attitude and each instruction symbolized Christ. He was without blemish and without spot (1 Peter 1:19). He is the open door. He died for our sin. Jesus came to do the Father's will, His life followed the Father's plan. The blood had to be sprinkled (Heb. 12:24), entrails may reference the soul (thoughts, feelings, intents of the heart). Everything must be clean

before God and burned completely (except the skin). This offering was a call of total commitment to God, to confess sin daily, and

a willingness to surrender and acknowledge the need of God's mercy and grace.

The Grain Offering - (Lev. 2:1-3; 6:14-18) - This offering was given in addition to the Burnt offering. It symbolized gratitude for God's provision. Again, depending upon financial status, there were three types: Fine flour mixed with oil and frankincense, cakes made of fine flour mixed with oil

and baked in an oven or pan, or green heads of roasted grain mixed with oil and frankincense. With this offering, "it is the holiest part of the fire offerings to the LORD" (v. 3b, HCSB). Presenting this offering was an expressing of gratitude to God for His provisions (see 1 Thes. 5:18).

The Fellowship Offering - (Lev. 3:1-5; 7:11-21) - Following the burnt offering, came the fellowship offering. It symbolized the worshiper and God sitting down and eating together at peace with each other. Throughout the book of Leviticus, we will see the "shadow of things to come." True peace, everlasting peace is found only through faith in Christ and it grows through daily fellowship with Him. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you..." (John 14:27a).

Hopefully, as we briefly work our way through the book of Leviticus over the next four weeks, you will be drawn to study this book deeper. As you do, place the book of Hebrews next to it. "But this man (Jesus), after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12 HCSB). Christ finished the work set before Him!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



Explore the Bible
with Laura Leathers

Barnabas: Ongoing Encouragement • Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:19-26

During part of the time I worked in the Baptist Building, there were a number of other employees named Don. This gave the telephone receptionists a real challenge to know where to send a phone call when someone called for Don. A caller asking for Don might be calling Don Wilson, Don Gann, Don Lum, or even on rare occasions me. So when someone came on saying, "Don, I have a question." I would listen carefully and if I liked the question I just answered the question and didn't tell them their question had been sent to the wrong Don.

Having just a first name can make it hard to know who the person really is. Here are a couple of Bible Trivia Questions. How many people in the New Testament had the name Jesus? Or more relevant to our lesson today, how many men named Joseph can you find in the New Testament? Actually, this is not only trivial but it is a trick question for English speaking Bible students. The answer will change depending on which translation or version you are studying, but following an individual through the pages and years of New Testament can be very important. That is where we begin our lesson for this Sunday.

Dr. Luke felt it important to carefully identify the Joseph in our focal passage. This is how he began that

process, "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement)," Acts 4:36 (CSB). King James translates this verse, "And Joseph, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus," Acts 4:36 (KJV). Luke is introducing us to one of the most influential leaders in the New Testament. It is significant that the apostles knew this leader because he was consistently encouraging others. During most of the rest of the New Testament he is known as Barnabas, Son of Encouragement.

The writer of Hebrews helps us understand the important role of encouragement, "not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching," Hebrews 10:25 (CSB). So Barnabas' identifying characteristic, encouragement, is a main emphasis

of the New Testament faith. Maybe, it would behoove us to define encouragement now. Merriam-Webster defines encouragement, "to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope; hearten."

The first thing we find out about the depth of Barnabas' faith is in the next verse, he "sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet," Acts 4:37 (CSB). To understand the sincerity of Barnabas' act of faith, read the account of Ananias and Sapphira's hypocritically dishonest gift of the money from their sale.

The dictionary definition of encouragement included inspiring with courage. This is definitely a major characteristic of Barnabas' acts of encouragement shared with us by Luke. When Saul, later known as Paul, tried to join the disciples in Jerusalem "they did not believe he was a disciple. Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to

him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus," Acts 9:26-27 (CSB). To understand the real depth of Barnabas' courage you must realize the disciples who feared Saul had every reason to fear Saul. Barnabas had as much reason to fear Saul as the apostles did. Yet, Barnabas told the disciples that God had a good gift for them in the fellowship they could have with Saul as he shared his testimony with them. He was also a great encourager to Saul as he joined the other disciples to preach and grow in his faith in Christ Jesus.

When persecution spread, the followers of the way went to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch where they initially preached only to the Jews. "But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came ... and began speaking to the Greeks also." The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord," Acts 11:20-21 (CSB). The Apostles sent Barnabas to check this new thing out. "When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith," Acts 11:23-24 (CSB).

Hicks is Associational Missions Director for Jasper Association.

Bible Studies for Life
with Don Hicks



YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN." MATTHEW 5:16

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

ON HIS

mission
FOR HIS
glory

MARGARET LACKEY
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS
MISSISSIPPI

YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN." MATTHEW 5:16

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

Shining a light



"Vicksburg is and always has been home for me," said Brian Crawford, pastor of City Light Church, a church plant in Vicksburg. "It's a small town, a historic town, but unbelievably a very diverse town. It's a town of wounded and broken, a town whose smallness is sometimes reflected in the lack of opportunities for those who are its least fortunate."

"The diversity is sometimes overshadowed and undermined by the lack of its most sacred institutions. It's a town that's deeply churchified but remains very lost and unconverted. It's that brokenness that's been grabbing at my wife and me for some time. Finally, a couple of years ago, we went from prayer to an eventual decision to plant a church right here in the heart of our city - City Light Church."

"City Light Church stands on a very simple but very powerful vision. We exist to shine a light of Christ in our city, through the transformed lives of His people. We want to do that by using the perfect gift of the Gospel to speak directly to the unique brokenness of our city. We believe that in the Gospel of Jesus Christ brokenness is cured and we want to reflect that cure through a set of values that will place the Gospel on display and bring healing to the unique needs of our neighborhoods."

"One of the values we have is compassionate conviction. We want to insure that we cultivate a family of believers that care deeply about the truth of God's word but care just as deeply about sharing the truth of God's word in a way that God has called us to share it - with genuine compassion and love

for those who hear it. We aren't interested in building a black church and obviously we aren't interested in building a white church. We want to build a neighborhood church, one that in small ways reflects the unique diversity of all of our neighbors in this city."

"We simply could not have gotten this far, and certainly there would be no hope in us preparing to launch in a successful way without the Mississippi Baptist Convention 242 Network and certainly the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. This simply could have not happened had it not been for great Mississippi Baptists all over the state supporting the Margaret Lackey fund and giving to the fund and helping church planters - and obviously, by default, helping the kingdom of God."

ALLOCATIONS

MISSION VOLUNTEERS | \$685,000

Mississippi Baptists mobilized over 30,000 volunteers last year. Margaret Lackey provides training, travel assistance, and connections to Southern Baptist missionaries in North America and around the world. A \$500 gift helps to send a Mississippi volunteer to Asia. Contact Mike Ray or Cassie Munn at (800) 748.1651 ext 398 or (601) 292.3398.

CENTRAL HILLS | \$405,000

"Learning the ropes" of missions involvement is a key function of Central Hills Retreat in Kosciusko. Almost 5,000 campers were trained last year, and many made decisions for Christ. A \$200 gift will cover expenses for a missionary speaker. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

GARAYWA | \$405,000

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center provided missional training and inspiration for more than 6,800 persons last year. Over 1300 campers attended Garaywa Missions Camp and 70 made professions of faith in Christ. A \$185 gift sends a Mississippi girl to camp. Arine Wilson has more information: 601.924.7034.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY | \$180,000

Margaret Lackey grants help fund church-led mission projects in communities all across our state. Associational Missions Directors identify needs, design Gospel responses, and coordinate the activities. A \$100 gift rents a block party trailer. Talk to your local AMD for more information.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION | \$175,000

Almost two million Mississippians are unchurched. Margaret Lackey gifts provide the initial funding to start new churches focused on reaching our fellow Mississippians with the Gospel. A \$250 gift provides the weekly rent for a new congregation to meet. Johnny Ervin has more information (800) 748.1651 ext 361 or (601) 292.3361.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES | \$65,000

Jesus described true faith as "I was in prison and you visited me..." Margaret Lackey funds help provide visits for people in prisons all across our state. Your gifts provide teaching materials for local leaders and seminary classes at Parchman. A \$20 gift purchases a Free on the Inside Bible. For more information contact Charles Jones (662) 721.0264 or John Henry (662) 508.0293.

DISASTER RELIEF | \$65,000

When Mississippi hurts, Baptists care! Margaret Lackey trains disaster relief specialists who are ready at the sound of a siren to cook, clean, clear, and encourage the victims of disastrous events. A \$150 gift provides 50 hot meals prepared by our volunteers. For more information contact Don Gann (800) 748.1651 ext 339 or (601) 292.3339.

LANGUAGE/DEAF MINISTRY | \$40,000

Margaret Lackey makes sure our non-reading and non-hearing neighbors have access to the Gospel. Your gifts helped train more than 100 leaders for ESL, ARW, and Chronological Bible Storying. A \$20 gift provides the training workbook needed by volunteers. Call Cindy Townsend (800) 748.1651 ext 318 or (601) 292.3318 for more information about Language Ministry; Call or text Jim Booth (601) 201.3361 for more information about Deaf Ministry.

CROSS CULTURAL EVANGELISM | \$32,500

Margaret Lackey recognizes 6 different language groups in Mississippi. The offering funds also help share the Gospel with over one million African-Americans. A \$10 gift provides a foreign language Bible. Chris McNairy has more information (770) 814.1405.

CWJC/CWJC | \$25,000

Twenty-four percent of Mississippi's population lives below the poverty line. Christian Men's/Women's Job Corps combine discipleship and job skill training to assist men and women. There are more than 20 CWJC/CWJC sites across our state. A gift of \$20 provides What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty, a resource for training ministry volunteers. Tammy Anderson (800) 748.1651 ext. 323 or (601) 292.3323 has more information.

COLLEGIATE OUTREACH | \$12,500

Through our BSU organizations, Margaret Lackey encourages international and ethnic students to explore the Gospel and meet Christian believers. A \$25 gift helps host Gospel fellowships on major campuses. Contact Lloyd Luncford or Jennie Taylor at (800) 748.1651 ext 299 or (601) 292.3299.

PORT MINISTRY | \$10,000

More than 5,000 international sailors visit Mississippi every year. Through port ministries in Pascagoula and Gulfport, Margaret Lackey offers a Christian witness and warm hospitality. A \$5 gift purchases a Jesus Film that sailors can take home with them. Adrian Turner (229) 623.0103 has more information about the Pascagoula Ministry. Steve Mooneyham (228) 832.4311 has more information about the Gulfport Ministry.

GOAL: \$2,100,000